

Amendment to the Claims

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (New) A wheelchair having a chair part on which a user can sit, and rotatable wheels provided on both sides of the chair part so as to be rotatable by hand for effecting movement of the wheelchair, each of the wheels comprising:

a rim member defining an outer periphery;

a hub member rotatably connected to the chair part, and connected at a center of the rim member via a wheel part,

wherein the rim member is formed in a U-shape in a cross-sectional cut in a radial direction, the U-shape being defined by an inner sidewall positioned on the chair part side, an outer sidewall on an opposing side, and a connecting ring connecting the inner sidewall and the outer sidewall, and

wherein the outer sidewall forms a continuous wall portion, and the continuous wall portion is formed in a ring shape at an outer side of the outer periphery of the rim member, and provides a grip ring on an edge portion thereof; and

a cushion ring fixed on an outer peripheral surface of the connecting ring, wherein the inner sidewall is connected to the wheel part, the grip ring is provided on an edge portion of the outer sidewall, and the U-shaped rim member, which is formed by the inner sidewall, the connecting ring and the outer sidewall, forms a finger-holding

cavity capable of receiving therein a user's fingers to rotate the wheel by gripping the grip ring.

15. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 14, wherein the inner surface of the U-shaped rim member provides a surface condition that does not include any irregularity that might interfere with movement of the user's hand in the rotating direction.

16. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 15, wherein a smooth plate is integrally formed on the inner surface of the U-shaped portion.

17. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 16, wherein the rim member comprising the inner sidewall, the outer sidewall, the connecting ring and the smooth plate is formed integrally of a plastic material.

18. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 14, wherein the continuous wall portion is either curved or angled toward the center of the wheel, and the grip ring on the edge portion is positioned on the center side relative to the outer periphery of the rim member.

19. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 14, wherein the continuous wall portion has a maximum thickness (D) at the grip ring.

20. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 14, wherein the cushion ring is formed of rubber.

21. (New) A wheelchair having a chair part on which a user can sit, and rotatable wheels provided on both sides of the chair part so as to be rotatable by hand for effecting movement of the wheelchair, each of the wheels comprising:

- a rim member defining an outer periphery;

- a hub member rotatably connected to the chair part, and connected at a center of the rim member via a wheel member; and

- a cushion ring fixed on the outer periphery of the rim member,

- wherein the rim member includes a continuous wall portion on an outer side of the outer periphery;

- wherein the continuous wall portion is formed in a ring shape along the rim member, and provides a grip ring on an edge portion thereof,

- wherein a finger-holding cavity is formed by the continuous wall portion, the finger-holding cavity being capable of receiving therein a user's fingers to rotate the wheel by gripping the grip ring, and

- wherein each of the wheels is curved from inside to outside in a direction from the rim member toward the hub member.

22. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 21, wherein the rim member is formed in a U-shape in a cross-section cut in a radial direction, the U-shape being defined by an

inner sidewall positioned on the chair part side, an outer sidewall on an opposing side, and a connecting ring connecting the inner sidewall and the outer sidewall, and the outer sidewall forms the continuous wall portion, and

wherein the cushion ring is fixed on the outer peripheral surface of the connecting ring, the inner sidewall is connected to the wheel part, the grip ring is provided on an edge portion of the outer sidewall, and the U-shaped portion comprising the inner sidewall, the connecting ring and the outer sidewall forms the finger-holding cavity.

23. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 22, wherein the inner surface of the U-shaped rim member provides a surface condition that does not include any irregularity that might interfere with movement of the user's hand in the rotating direction.

24. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 23, wherein a smooth plate is integrally formed on the inner surface of the U-shaped portion.

25. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 24, wherein the rim member comprising the inner sidewall, the outer sidewall, the connecting ring and the smooth plate is formed integrally of a plastic material.

26. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 21, wherein the rim member comprises a ring member fixing the cushion ring on an outer periphery surface thereof, and the continuous wall portion is provided on the outer surface of the ring member, and wherein the finger-holding cavity is formed by the continuous wall portion and the ring member.

27. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 26, wherein the outer surface of the ring member and the surface of the continuous wall portion define a surface condition that does not include an irregularity that might interfere with movement of the user's hand in the rotating direction.

28. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 26, wherein the ring member and the continuous wall portion are formed integrally of a plastic material.

29. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 21, wherein the continuous wall portion is either curved or angled toward the center portion of the wheel, and the grip ring is positioned on the center side relative to the outer peripheral edge of the rim member.

30. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 21, wherein the continuous wall portion includes a connecting portion between the outer periphery of the rim member and the grip ring, and the continuous wall portion has a maximum thickness (D) at the grip ring and a minimum thickness (d) at the connecting portion.

31. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 21, wherein the rim member, the wheel member, and the hub member are integrally formed of plastic.

32. (New) A wheelchair as recited in claim 21, wherein the cushion ring is a rubber ring.